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## McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter\_November 2020

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## McGillicuddy Humanities Center Newsletter

[November, 2020]



As less daylight and cooler weather prepares us for winter, we've noticed this autumn has been a spectacular one for New England in general, and Maine in particular. We hope you've found time to enjoy the harvest season, and the profusion of colorful leaves falling from bright trees. Beginning last month, Assistant Professor of Philosophy Don Beith has been leading contemplative forest walks on university trails on Friday afternoons (see below for instructions if you would like to participate), moving philosophical contemplation of our ecological embeddedness in nature into nature itself. Such walks bring the rumination at the heart of the humanities into the kind of thoughtful experience and practice that helps us understand our relationship to nature, and our place on earth.

### University of Maine Humanities Events

**\* Please note that the November 9 showing of *Mad Max: Fury Road* has been canceled. The McGillicuddy Humanities Center Film Series will continue in the spring of 2021. More information will be announced in the new year.**

#### THE HUMANITIES AS ACTIVISM IN CHICAGO

November 12, 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**THE HUMANITIES AS ACTIVISM IN CHICAGO**  
a conversation  
\*\*\*  
**NOVEMBER 12**  
12:30 EST  
<https://maine.zoom.us/j/94485327393>  
PART OF THE SOCIALIST AND MARXIST STUDIES SERIES  
McGillicuddy Humanities Center

**Social justice photographer**  
**Tonika Johnson**  
*Faded Area: Belonging, Place, Power, and Impossibility*  
**Author and poet**  
**Kevin Coval**  
*Young Chicago Authors*  
*Locusts That Is Born*  
*A People's History of Chicago*  
**Interdisciplinary artist and educator**  
**Nicole Marroquin**  
*Sister of the Architecture of Chicago*  
*Chicago Raza Research Consortium*  
*Photocollage*  
*Photocollage*  
Moderator: Karen Sieber, McGillicuddy Humanities Center

This session of the [Socialist and Marxist Studies Series](#) will feature three remarkable panelists whose work at the intersection of the humanities and activism has garnered national attention: Tonika Johnson, Kevin Coval, and Nicole Marroquin. Join at: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/94485327393>

**Tonika Johnson** is a Chicago visual artist, photographer, and community activist. Her *Faded Map* project examines the long history of redlining and segregation in the city and works to address inaccurate negative perceptions about the South and West sides of Chicago. She is co-founder of the Resident Association of Greater Englewood (R.A.G.E.) and lead co-founder of Englewood Arts Collective. In 2017, Johnson was named a Chicagoan of the Year.

**Kevin Coval** is an Emmy-nominated, award-winning poet & author of *Everything Must Go: The Life & Death of an American Neighborhood*, *A People's History of Chicago* & over ten other full-length collections, anthologies & chapbooks. He is a founding editor of The BreakBeat Poets imprint on Haymarket Books. Coval is Creative Director of the MacArthur Award-winning cultural organization, [Young Chicago Authors](#), a founder of [Louder Than a Bomb](#), [The Chicago Youth Poetry Festival](#), the world's largest youth poetry festival, now in more than 19 cities across North America. He's shared the stage with The Migos & Nelson Mandela & his work has been featured on *The Daily Show*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Chicago Tribune* & CNN.com & four seasons of HBO's *Def Poetry Jam*. Coval was the recipient of the 2018 Studs Terkel Award.

**Nicole Marroquin** is an artist, educator, activist, and the creator of Chicago Raza Research Consortium, a grassroots effort to map, gather, and present Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Latinx, and Raza history in Chicago. She is [Associate Professor in the Department of Art Education](#) at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Moderator: Karen Sieber** is Humanities Specialist at the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. She is a former Chicagoan, who is a public historian doing research on what she calls "tactical humanities," or using the humanities in strategic outside-of-the-box ways to draw attention to urgent issues.

#### TELLING THE STORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

November 17, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**"TELLING THE STORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE"**  
communicating the impact of climate change to the public  
**NOV. 17**  
**7:30 PM**  
  
WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST  
**Dr. Amanda Cross**  
Moose Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
**Lee Kantar**  
Moose Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
**Moderator: Dr. Katherine Glover**  
Research Associate, University of Maine's Climate Change Institute  
JOIN AT: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/84162028940>

**Bill Trotter**  
Journalist, Bangor Daily News  
**Dr. Amanda Cross**  
Wildlife Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
**Lee Kantar**  
Moose Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
**Moderator: Dr. Katherine Glover**  
Research Associate, University of Maine's Climate Change Institute  
JOIN AT: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/84162028940>

This event, part of the MHC's 2020-2021 Symposium on "The Story of Climate Change" brings together people from different professional fields tasked with communicating the impact of climate change to the public. The panel (which will be remote, [via Zoom](#)) features a veteran reporter, scientists working with Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW), and is moderated by Dr. Katherine Glover from the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute. Panelists will discuss best practices for telling the story of climate change, and for helping the public understand environmental transformation on both a local and global scale.

##### Panelists:

**Bill Trotter** is a veteran *Bangor Daily News* reporter who writes about how the Atlantic Ocean and the state's iconic coastline help to shape the lives of coastal Maine residents and visitors. Based in [Ellsworth](#), he writes about fisheries, marine-related topics, and covers eastern coastal Maine communities.

**Dr. Amanda Cross** is a wildlife biologist with the [Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife](#) and a member of [the Maine Climate Council](#). She studies, teaches, and conducts public outreach about vernal pool ecology across Maine.

**Lee Kantar** is a Moose Biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. In 2019, Kantar was awarded [the Distinguished Moose Biologist Award](#) at the 53rd North American Moose Conference held in Carrabassett Valley, Maine.

##### Moderator

**Dr. Katherine Glover** is a Research Associate at the University of Maine's [Climate Change Institute](#). Specializing in how interactions between hydroclimate, vegetation, and wildfire produce landscape change, and the sustainable management of public lands, Dr. Glover will be teaching WGS 301/501: Women and Climate Change, in the spring, 2021 semester.

The panel will run 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and it will be recorded.

Join via Zoom at: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/84162028940>

#### RAISING OUR VOICES ON RACE AND RACISM SERIES

November 19 and November 30, 4-5 p.m.

This two-part series examining race and racism is co-sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology, Philosophy, Political Science, and Native American Programs and the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. The first talk on November 19 will focus on "Defining Race and Racism: Institutionalization and Experience." The second lecture in the series on November 30, "Confronting Racism: Historical Reckonings and Contemporary Reforms" will feature, among others, MHC faculty adviser [Dr. Darren Ranco](#), and MHC Fellow [Nolan Altvater](#). More information about how to join these virtual talks will be announced soon by the event sponsors.

### Raising our Voices on Race and Racism

**Two Part Lecture Series and Community Discussion**  
**PART I: Thursday, November 19th from 4-5 pm**  
**PART II: Monday, November 30th from 4-5 pm**  
Virtual Zoom Series  
University of Maine

#### Part I: Defining Race and Racism: Institutionalization and Experience (Thursday, November 19th, 4-5 pm)

##### Featuring:

**Dr. Douglas Allen**, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy  
**Dr. Amy Fried**, Professor of Political Science  
**Dr. Judith Josiah-Martin**, Faculty in the School of Social Work

#### Part II: Confronting Racism: Historical Reckonings and Contemporary Reforms (Monday, November 30th, 4-5 pm)

**The Doctrine of Christian Discovery & Domination As the Underpinning of European Colonization of the Western Hemisphere**  
**John Dieffenbacher-Krall**, Committee on Indian Relations, Episcopal Diocese of Maine

**The Penobscot Nation, Territorial Takings, and the State of Maine**  
**Dr. Darren Ranco**, Professor of Anthropology & Chair of Native American Programs  
**Chelsea Fairbank**, PhD candidate in Anthropology & Environmental Policy

**Racism and the Environment: Learning from Local Efforts for Institutional Change and Environmental Justice**  
**Dr. Bridie McGraw**, Associate Professor of Environmental Communication  
**Dr. Darren Ranco**, Professor of Anthropology & Chair of Native American Programs  
**Nolan Altvater**, McGillicuddy Humanities Center Undergraduate Fellow

The Fall 2020 Raising our Voices on Race and Racism two-part series is sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology, Philosophy, Political Science, Native American Programs. For additional information, contact [cynthia.socolow@maine.edu](mailto:cynthia.socolow@maine.edu).

**THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. TO REGISTER PLEASE GO TO...**

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

#### CONTEMPLATIVE FOREST WALKS

November 6, 13, and 20 from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Trailhead by New Balance Recreation Center (RSVP only; space limited)

**Contemplative Forest Walks**  
Fall 2020  
**Fridays – meet at noon, 12:15 pm hit the trails, 1:15 – 1:30 pm return**

**Don Beith**, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy, will be leading **contemplative forest walks** on the university trails every Friday through the end of semester (weather permitting). Participants will gather at the trailhead near the New Balance Rec Center at noon for a 12:15 p.m. departure and a 1:15-1:30 p.m. return. Social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines will be in effect, with walks limited to 20 participants.

For more information, contact [donald.beith@maine.edu](mailto:donald.beith@maine.edu).

#### TARRED AND FEATHERED: UMAINE'S HIDDEN CONNECTION TO THE RED SUMMER

December 1, 7-8 p.m.

Virtually via Zoom

**TAR AND FEATHERS GOAT FOR TWO NEGRO STUDENTS**  
Why Did the University of Maine Put History About Violence?  
Nolan Altvater

**TARRED AND FEATHERED:**  
UMaine's Hidden Connection to the Red Summer of 1919  
**December 1, 7pm EST**  
Zoom: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/85185674577>

**Karen Sieber**, Humanities Specialist at the McGillicuddy Humanities Center, will be speaking on December 1, 2020 at 7PM about her research, "Tarred and Feathered: UMaine's Hidden Connection to the Red Summer."

Sieber has spent years collecting data and building an archive about the Red Summer of 1919, a nationwide wave of violence against African Americans that year. Her creation [Visualizing the Red Summer](#) is now the most used classroom resource on the topic in the nation. Sieber will discuss her work building what she calls a "rogue archive," her recent discovery of the tarring and feathering of the Courtney Brothers on campus, and parallels it holds to current events. She will also highlight work she is doing with students in Liam Riordan's Public History class to build a virtual tour of this and other hidden campus histories.

### McGillicuddy Humanities Center Updates

**MAINE REMEMBERS THE CORONAVIRUS**  
An Oral History Project in Service to the State and Future

**"Maine Remembers the Coronavirus" Oral History Project:** Karen Sieber and Michael Socolow are continuing to work on the pilot project for an Oral History collection titled, "Maine Remembers the Coronavirus." Interviews will be indexed, meta-tagged, and made publicly available through Fogler Library's Digital Commons repository.

We're on schedule to have the pilot project completed and launched by the end of the year, with an expansion in 2021. We'd also like to acknowledge the support of Doug Baston (UMaine Class of 1969) in getting the project launched this fall.

**Strategic Planning:** The McGillicuddy Humanities Center has been working with **Starboard Leadership** to produce a strategic plan for the Center as it enters its second decade. We're nearing completion of the plan, and would like to thank everyone that participated in the process. Your comments, guidance, and ideas have proven very helpful, and we look forward to finalizing how the plan will inform the Center's progress in multiple ways in the coming years.

**Fellows Updates:** Our 2020 MHC Undergraduate Fellows are wrapping up their research soon and presenting on their findings. Fellow Bria Lamonic will be holding a poetry reading in early December of the collection she created during her fellowship. Friends, family, and her advisor will also read selections. Her manuscript, *The Art of Breathing*, is inspired by contemporary feminist poetry and serves to provide a lens into the world that women are living in and the struggles they face every day. Fellow Leela Stockley, also the editor-in-chief of the *Maine Campus*, is in the process of creating a website where users can view real world examples, and scholarly analysis, of mass media and racial bias in the reporting of recent protests. Lastly, Fellow Ivy Flessen, who has been researching "The Morality of the Life of the Mind in Plato's Dialogues," will present in the spring semester on a subset of her research, focusing on the *Myth of Er*. Her research examines the inevitable tension between politics and philosophy (intellectualism, if more accessible), and how that tension often prevails. **More details will be announced in coming weeks.**

### UMaine Humanities Scholars in the News

Communication doctoral student **Alan Berry**, who co-convenes the MHC movie series with Karen Sieber, published an op-ed in the *Bangor Daily News* on October 20, 2020. Titled: ["Media Literacy Is Needed Now More Than Ever,"](#) the piece explains how the global pandemic - and the subsequent widespread distribution of misinformation - have made the need for media literacy a more urgent imperative for our society.

Elizabeth Neiman, Associate Professor in the Department of English and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, has co-edited with Tina Morin (University of Limerick) [a special issue of the journal Romantic Textualities: Literature and Print Culture, 1780-1840](#), dedicated to the popular London printing house Minerva, which brought an unprecedented number of new women novelists into the market between 1790 and 1820.

The [Associated Press](#) interviewed Mark Brewer, Professor in the Department of Political Science, about how ranked choice voting could affect the general election. The *Bangor Daily News*, *Portland Press Herald* and *WGAN* in Presque Isle shared the AP story. Brewer was also interviewed for [a segment on Maine Public](#) about the Maine State Senate race, telling reporter Mal Leary, "The control of the Maine Senate is a pure toss up." Brewer was also interviewed for [a piece in the Boston Globe](#) about President Donald Trump's persistent popularity in small-town Maine.

**Amy Fried**, Chair of the Department of Political Science, wrote an op-ed for the *Bangor Daily News* titled ["Election Day and the great task before us now,"](#) in which she argues that "This is our time in history to take on the great task before us — controlling the pandemic and thus being able to bring back our normal lives — and to go beyond it by making the system work for everyday people."

[Bangor Daily News](#) reported on the recent award that **Darren Ranco** and the University of Maine **Native American Studies** program received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expand their Wabanaki Youth Science (WaYS) Program. BDN explained that the grant will help fund a new initiative called New Beginning for Tribal Students (NBTS), will bring the WaYS educational program to the University of Maine at Machias, and create a new mentorship program called WaYS Ambassadors, in which advanced Native American graduate and undergraduate students will guide peers at the Machias and Orono campuses through research projects and professional development activities.

MHC Director **Michael Socolow** was quoted in the *Portland Press Herald* on October 20, 2020, [in an article about the emergence of partisan news websites](#) in Maine and across the nation. Socolow also appeared October 22 on *Illinois Public Radio* program "The 21st" to discuss ["Do Presidential Debates Even Matter?"](#)

### CONFERENCES AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

#### Register Now for the National Humanities Conference

Join representatives from colleges, universities, state humanities councils, museums, and libraries for the first-ever virtual National Humanities Conference, taking place **Friday, November 6; Tuesday, November 10; Thursday, November 12; and Friday, November 13**. Virtual attendees will have the opportunity to connect with scholars in the field, participate in small group discussions, attend more than 60 sessions exploring public humanities work, and learn about National Endowment for the Humanities opportunities. [Click here for more information and a link to register.](#)

#### Call For Proposals: Connecticut Digital Humanities Conference CTDH 2021

CTDH endeavors to bring to together a network of DH practitioners committed to advancing collaborative scholarship in digital humanities research and pedagogy across the New England region. We welcome proposals that address digital humanities & teaching, perhaps especially with undergraduates.

We invite contributions from faculty researchers, unaffiliated scholars, librarians, technologists, and undergraduate and graduate students. We encourage those proposing sessions to consider formats beyond the traditional 20-minute paper panel, such as roundtables, multi-speaker panels, lightning talks, and digital demonstrations. Proposals should be less than 300 words in length and should describe the 1) proposed topic; 2) session format; 3) requested time length; 4) names and affiliations of participants; and 5) anticipated audience for the session.

Proposals are due **December 15, 2020**.  
Presenters will be notified of acceptance by early January. [More information here.](#)

[Find Out More](#)

